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few blackish sporangia forming an intramarginal line, immersed in the waxy mass; margin [of the segments] very narrow, slightly scarious."—*Mettenius, Cheilanthes, p.* 21. This species is united with *N. candida* by Hooker, though with much hesitation, and by Mr. Baker both species are referred to *N. sulphurea*, J. Smith, a name founded on the old *Pteris sulphurea*, Cavanilles. What name this fern will eventually bear I cannot now determine. The name of *N. Borrigiana* was doubtfully used for it in the first edition of Mann's catalogue, referring to *Cheilanthes Borrigiana*, Reichenbach, but I now think the description of *N. cretacea*, above translated from Dr. Mettenius, comes nearer to it. I have seen no authentic specimens of either *N. cretacea*, *Liebm.*, *Pteris sulphurea*, Cav. *P. lutea*, or *P. aurantiaca*, Cav. Should it prove to be either of these last, one of Cavanilles' specific names must be adopted. It is assuredly distinct from *N. candida*, Hook., a name based on *Cheilanthes candida*, Martens and Galeotti. *N. candida* is Mr. Wright's New Mexican 820 and 2,124, and *N. cretacea* his 821. Neither species has been sent from California, but the Californian *Gymnogramme triangularis*, which has a considerable resemblance to the present fern, is sometimes mistaken for it, and *vice versa.*

6. Aspidium unitum, *Mettenius*, in Annales Mus. Lugd.-Batavorum, I., p. 230, *var.* GLABRUM, *Mett. l.c.*, has just been found near Enterprise, Florida, by Mr. C. E. Faxon, of Cambridge, Mass. The fronds grow from a very long and slender, nearly naked, black, creeping rhizoma, are one or two feet high, and pinnate with many pairs of narrow linear pinnæ serrately lobed about half-way to the midrib. The lowest pair of veinlets unite near the midrib, and send out a solitary veinlet to the sinus, where also the second pair of veinlets reach the margin. The fruit-dots are very small, and are placed close to the margin, forming an almost continuous border. The texture is somewhat rigid, and the plant is not closely related to any other species of the genus yet found in the United States, its nearest ally being *A. patens.* It is a well-known fern of the West Indies, and is No. 1,100 of Mr. Wright's Cuban collection.

⁂ Mr. John Robinson, of Salem, Mass., has just issued a new Check-list of the Ferns of the United States and British America, both in pamphlet form, printed on alternate pages, for convenience in cutting out labels, and on thin folio post, a single sheet, for marking desiderata, etc. The list, which is the best hitherto published, preserves the numbers used in Mann's Catalogue, and gives one hundred and twenty-six species and twelve varieties. Our well-known *Aspidium acrostichoides*, so available for winter decorations, is happily *christened* Christmas Fern—a name which I certainly hope will be generally adopted. D. C. Eaton.

§ 28. Botanical Morphology.—In the *American Naturalist* for May, Prof. T. D. Biscoe contributes a study of the winter fronds of Duckweed (Spirodela), which is full of instruction for the minute dissections and investigations which lie at the very foundation of botanical science. Many causes have led botanists in America to give their attention more particularly to the systematic part of the science; but this field has been so well worked, and is so full of workers, that there is little room for any new comer to add much to our knowledge in this department, while the other divisions of the science offer unlimited range for delightful and profitable investigation. Whether taking his healthful walk in the country after rarer plants, or confined to the weeds of his dooryard, the student of vegetable biology can always find subjects of interest. If a few more of our able investigators would disclose to outsiders their methods of research, so as to set the current of study in that direction, they would be doing good service. We heartily thank Prof. Biscoe for his example of honestly thorough work in a somewhat neglected field.

§ 29. **Publications**.—The *Naturalist* for May is unusually well supplied with botanical matter. Prof. Biscoe's article on Duckweed we have elsewhere noticed. Prof. Watson describes some new plants of Arizona.—*Silliman's Journal* contains, with other notes of interest, obituary notices of Curtis, Mohl, and others. A biographical sketch of Dr. Torrey is promised for the June number.—*Archives of Science*, Vol. I., No. 6, continues the list of flowering plants of Vermont, by Prof. Perkins, and of the Cryptogams, by Charles C. Frost.—The *Popular Science Monthly* for May has an interesting article on the freezing of plants and animals, from the German of Fr. Mohr.—In the *Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy*, 1870–72, Dr. Lapham discusses the classification of plants in the light of Geology.

§ 30. **Motion of Fovillæ** (*Pollen contents*).—We extract the following paragraph from the note of a friend: "I was recently examining the pollen of the common Calla, so called, (*Richardia Æthiopica*). The granules are unusually large, and are admirable for study in several respects. They show, with unusual distinctness, the double character of the coat. The fovillæ shrink away to the centre, leaving the margin all around the granule transparent. I had placed some of the pollen upon the slide with a drop of water. Soon I found some of the granules burst, and the contents poured out like meal from a sack. But in a moment it was 'all alive.' Each particle of the fovillæ went whirling around and twisting away, now on its own hook, now bowing to its neighbor, and aggregating with others similar. The whole field was covered with a cloud of busy particles, moving about with a sort of infusorial motion, but much slower. This lasted for an hour or two. If the granules do not burst by the absorption of water, they may be crushed in the compressorium, or simply with a knife-blade or similar instrument."

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The Club meets regularly the last Tuesday of the month in the Herbarium, Columbia College, at 7½ P.M.